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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

19 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: SNIE 100-7-59: SOVIET TACTICS ON BERLIN

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On 15 June [REDACTED] the U.S. Delegation at Geneva requested the views of the U.S. intelligence community on the question of the likelihood of Soviet interference with civil access to Berlin as one of the possible courses of action discussed in SNIE 100-7-59. The USIB authorized the following reply at its meeting on 16 June:

"Implicit in our thinking was the belief that the Soviets' overriding aim was to force the Western powers themselves to agree to withdraw their forces from Berlin, or at least consent to weakening the status of their presence there. We felt that the Soviets would believe any dramatic or broad measures obstructing civil traffic with Berlin would lessen rather than increase the chance of obtaining this objective and might lead to strong Western countermeasures. We had visualized the possibility of some minor harassment of civil access under our Course II. We believe, however, that the degree of such harassment would be carefully controlled so as not to be construable by the West as an economic blockade of Berlin. Subtle and indirect measures aimed, for example, at weakening business and banking confidence in Berlin might be undertaken. We would consider such steps subsumed under para 4 of our estimate. Last sentence of para 4 should now read: We think steps of this kind, including some harassment of Berlin civil traffic to reduce business confidence, would be open, etc."

Accordingly, all holders of SNIE 100-7-59 should correct their copies so that the last sentence of para 4 reads (added words

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are underlined): "We think steps of this kind, including some harassment of Berlin civil traffic to reduce business confidence, would be open to the Soviets to take, and that their course of action after Geneva would probably be of this character."



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Deputy Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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